dated 24th October, 1987 refers to a new diagnostic method for ready testing of Sugar in Urine 'the strip method'. This procedure of determining sugar in urine is not outmoded and is based on latest immunological methods.

(b) Such diagnestic methods are meant for consumer-convenience and are not a threat to Consumer protection.

Exorbitant Air freight rates

1185 SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that exorbitant air freight rates have adversely affected our fruit and vegetable export business; and

(b) whether the Government propose to take any steps in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) (a) No, Sir. In fact highly discounted Govt. mandatory air freight rates are available for export of fruits and vegetables from India to various points in middle east. Also discounted specific commodity rates are available for export of fruits and vegetables from India to destinations in Europe, UK, USA, Japan and Singapore. The export of perishable through Air India has shown an increasing trend in 1986-87 as compared to 1985-86.

(b) Does not arise.

Permission to Maharashtra Government to Levy Entry Tax

1186. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have given permission to the Government of Maharashtra to Levy Entry Tax on vehicles entering the State; and

(b) whether it is the policy of Government to do away with octroi etc. and to encourage free flow of traffic and trade; if so, what is the justification to allow the levy of Entry Tax ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government has been emphasising on the State Governments the need for abolition of octroi and encouraging free flow of traffic and trade.

The Entry Tax on Motor Vehicles, levied by the Government of Maharashtra, envisages reducing the disparity, prevalent amongst various States and Union Territories as a result of levying low rates of Sales Tax as compared to the Sales Tax rates prevalent in Maharashtra. This tax is not likely to create any hindrance to the free flow of traffic, as vehicles merely passing through Maharashtra or being temporarily used in the State would not be subject to the tax and only those vehicles required to be registered in Maharashtra under the M V. Act, 1939 would be liable to pay the tax.

Response by State Governments to New Education Policy

1187. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued instructions to the States and Union Territories to introduce the reforms envisaged in the New Education Policy;

(b) if so, the details of the response received from different States and Union Territories; and

(c) the number of States and Union Territories which have introduced the new policy and are trying the reforms envisaged therein ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI) : (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) Almost all State Governments/UTs have set up necessary mechanisms for undertaking effective implementation of NPE. Copies of document entitled "National Policy on Education—1986—Implementation Report" detailing the progress of implementation of the NPE-1986 in the States (and the Centre) have been laid in both the Houses of Parliament on 28-8-1987.